

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action of August 17, 2004, in which the Examiner (1) rejected claims 1, 5, 7, 10, 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,818,811 ("**Fujii**"); (2) rejected claims 3-4 and 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Fujii** in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,625,388 ("**Maeda**"); (3) rejected claim 2 under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Fujii** in view of EPO Application No. 630002 A1 ("**Alon**") and (4) objected claims 6, 8-9, 14 and 16-17 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

By the present Amendment, claim 1 has been rewritten to include the subject matter of claims 5 and 6, and claim 10 had been amended to include the subject matter of claims 13 and 14. Given that claims 1 and 10 now recite subject matter indicated as allowable in the Office Action, and that all other claims now depend from those two claims, all pending claims are believed to recite allowable subject matter.

Applicants have also provided an Abstract and an amended Title as required by the Examiner.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 24-1430 the \$1020 fee for a 3-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.13(a)(1). Should any additional fees be required, please charge the above-identified deposit account for such fees.

Appl. No. 10/042,653

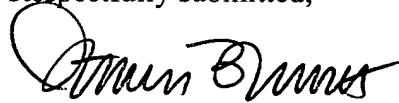
PATENT

Amdt. dated February 16, 2005

• Preliminary Amendment

• If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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